Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Thursday 10 Dec 2020 until 23:59 on Friday 11 Dec 2020

Forecast Issued on Thursday 10 Dec 2020 at 02:07

Confidence: High for generally dull, damp conditions with low cloud over the next few days. High for unsettled conditions from Sunday onwards with rain and strong winds likely.

Headline for Thursday 10 Dec 2020: Extensive low cloud and patchy rain. Strong winds at height.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 10 Dec 2020

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales Medium Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** High Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
FOG	FOG	FOG			
Fog	Fog	Fog	Light rain	Sleet	Sleet
Precipitation probability					
50%	50%	50%	50%	70%	70%

Forecast for Thursday 10 Dec 2020

Weather: A dull and cold day with low cloud and occasional rain or drizzle, falling as sleet or snow on the highest summits above 900m. The rain will turn more persistent and heavier through the evening. Strong winds with severe wind chill on the tops.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Effectively nil chance. Extensive cloud cover above 300 or 400m expected throughout. Cloud perhaps lifting onto higher slopes at times over northern fells.

Visibility: Very poor at height with close to white-out conditions in low cloud and snow cover. Navigational difficulties expected. Hazy below the cloud.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Forecast for Thursday 10 Dec 2020

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	35/42 SE	29/38 SE	32/42 S	35/46 S	38/50 S	33/45 S	32/43 SE
600	28/37 SE	28/39 SE	27/39 S	29/42 S	31/45 S	28/41 S	26/39 SE
300	12/29 SE	13/29 SE	13/30 S	15/34 S	15/36 S	14/33 S	13/30 SE
Valley	9/23 SE	10/23 SE	13/26 SE	14/29 SE	16/32 SE	15/29 SE	14/27 SE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	0/-8	0/-8	0/-8	0/-8	0/-8	1/-7	0/-7
600	2/-6	2/-6	2/-5	2/-5	2/-5	2/-4	2/-4
300	4/-1	4/-1	4/-1	4/-1	4/-1	4/-0	4/0
Valley	5/2	6/2	6/2	6/2	6/2	6/2	6/3
Freezing Level*	1200m	1300m	1300m	1300m	1300m	1200m	1300m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Low cloud, damp conditions and strong winds combining to give a severe wind chill. Note that winds will gust 40-50mph at times on the tops with sudden downslope gusts possible on lee slopes.

Forecast for Friday 11 Dec 2020

Weather: Cloudy and dull with outbreaks of rain or drizzle, these heavy at times and falling as sleet on the high summits.

Maximum wind: Southeasterly 30mph gusts 45mph in early hours, easing to 15-20mph during morning and 10-15mph in afternoon.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 10%. Extensive cloud cover above 400m with patches on lower slopes. Bases lifting at times over northern fells but summits remaining in the cloud.

Visibility: Very poor up in the cloud with white-out conditions possible where any snow fields remain. Generally hazy at lower levels.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 5C rising to 7C.
At 800m: Plus 2C.
Freezing level: Just above the summits.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 9 December 2020 Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:15 Full report: Ground conditions were similar to Tuesday albeit with less snow below 750m and more ice above 850m as the summit temperature was marginally below freezing. Insignificant patches of snow can be found above 500m and these increase in size and frequency to the main snow line which is between 700m and 750m depending upon aspect. Snow depth rises with altitude to reach an approximate average of around 5cm at 900m; however the actual depth encountered varies considerably from little on exposed areas, such as parts of the summit plateau, to drifts in hollows and sheltered aspects deep enough to swallow a 70cm ice axe although such depth is the exception. Where undisturbed, especially below 850m, the snowpack is mainly soft and wet. However on popular routes, where the snow has been compacted, there is hard snow and ice making conditions treacherous, especially in descent. Ice axe and crampons or micro spikes depending upon the snow's depth and inclination of any slope will be useful here. With the summit temperature marginally below freezing, there were patches of ice and harder snow above 850m. Exposed routes above the snowline, such as Striding and Swirral Edges, are in mixed winter condition with their crests consisting of a mixture of bare rock, soft snow, ice and hard snow. To the sides of both crests and on the edges' exits the snow depth is deeper, again with harder snow and ice where it has been compacted. It is strongly recommended that such routes are currently only attempted by those experienced in, and equipped for, winter mountaineering including crampons and especially an ice axe. People were again today successfully negotiating the edges without such equipment but a simple slip could be extremely serious; the other point to note is that it was far easier climbing the exits to the ridges without crampons than it was to descend them; another reason it is critical why such equipment must be carried. Many experienced walkers read these reports, so please pass on your wisdom to fellow walkers heading for exposed routes above the snowline without being properly equipped – they will thank you for it! Full winter clothing (waterproofs, warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone venturing out onto the fells. Climbers: Given the soft nature of the snowpack and the ground not being frozen, routes are not in condition. Temperature: minus 0.4 C, Maximum wind speed 14.5mph, Wind chill: minus 7.4 C Average wind speed: 13.3 mph.

Issued at: 02:07 on Thu 10 Dec 2020

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